

**What is Claimed:**

1. A method for providing search functionality across at least two search providers, said method comprising:
  - registering a first search method for performing searches on a first of said at least two search providers;
  - registering a second search method for performing searches on a second of said at least two search providers;
  - detecting a request for a search on a selected search provider from among said first search provider and said second search provider, said selected search provider corresponding to a corresponding search method from among said first search method and said second search method;
  - providing a ubiquitous search method for performing said search utilizing said corresponding search method; and
  - responding to a call to said ubiquitous search method by performing said search utilizing said corresponding search method.
2. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
  - registering a first response format for receiving search results from said first search provider;
  - registering a second response format for receiving search results from said second search provider; and
  - where said step of responding to a call to said ubiquitous search method comprises:
    - receiving a search result a response format corresponding to said selected search provider; and
    - providing said first and said second search results.
3. The method of claim 1, where said method comprises:
  - reading search provider data regarding said first search provider and said second search provider from a configuration file.
4. The method of claim 3, where said method is implemented in conjunction with a web server, and where said configuration file is a web.config file.

5. A method for providing search functionality across at least two search providers, said method comprising:
  - registering a first search method for performing searches on a first of said at least two search providers;
  - registering a second search method for performing searches on a second of said at least two search providers;
  - detecting a request for a search on said first search provider and said second search provider;
  - providing a ubiquitous search method for performing said search utilizing said first search method and said second search method; and
  - responding to a call to said ubiquitous search method by performing said search utilizing said first search method and said second search method.
6. The method of claim 5, further comprising:
  - registering a first response format for receiving search results from said first search provider;
  - registering a second response format for receiving search results from said second search provider; and
  - where said step of responding to a call to said ubiquitous search method comprises:
    - receiving a first search result in said first response format from said first search provider;
    - receiving a second search result in said second response format from said second search provider; and
    - providing said first and said second search results.
7. The method of claim 6, where said step of providing said first and said second search results comprises:
  - returning said first and said second search results in a unified format.
8. The method of claim 7, where said step of detecting a request for a search on said first search provider and said second search provider comprises receiving response format data, and where said step of providing said first and said second search results comprises:
  - returning said first and said second search results according to said response format data.

9. A computer-readable medium for providing search functionality across at least two search providers, said computer-readable medium comprising computer executable modules having computer executable instructions, said instructions comprising instructions for:
- registering a first search method for performing searches on a first of said at least two search providers;
  - registering a second search method for performing searches on a second of said at least two search providers;
  - detecting a request for a search on a selected search provider from among said first search provider and said second search provider, said selected search provider corresponding to a corresponding search method from among said first search method and said second search method;
  - providing a ubiquitous search method for performing said search utilizing said corresponding search method; and
  - responding to a call to said ubiquitous search method by performing said search utilizing said corresponding search method.
10. A computer-readable medium for providing search functionality across at least two search providers, said computer-readable medium comprising computer executable modules having computer executable instructions, said instructions comprising instructions for:
- registering a first search method for performing searches on a first of said at least two search providers;
  - registering a second search method for performing searches on a second of said at least two search providers;
  - detecting a request for a search on said first search provider and said second search provider;
  - providing a ubiquitous search method for performing said search utilizing said first search method and said second search method; and
  - responding to a call to said ubiquitous search method by performing said search utilizing said first search method and said second search method.
11. A computer-readable medium for providing a search on a database by a first search provider compatible with provision of search functionality across at least a second search provider, said computer-readable medium comprising computer executable modules having

computer executable instructions, said instructions comprising instructions for:

- providing a search method for searching said database;
- providing a search provider registration method for registering said search method;
- responding to a call to said search provider registration with information regarding said search method;
- responding to a call to said search method by searching said database.

12. A system for providing search functionality across at least two search providers, said system comprising:

registration module for registering a first search method for performing searches on a first of said at least two search providers and for registering a second search method for performing searches on a second of said at least two search providers;

search request detection module for detecting a request for a search on said first search provider and said second search provider;

ubiquitous search method provision module for providing a ubiquitous search method for performing said search utilizing said first search method and said second search method; and

ubiquitous search method response module for responding to a call to said ubiquitous search method by performing said search utilizing said first search method and said second search method.

13. A system for providing search functionality across at least two search providers, said system comprising:

registration module for registering a first search method for performing searches on a first of said at least two search providers and for registering a second search method for performing searches on a second of said at least two search providers;

search request detection module for detecting a request for a search on said first search provider and said second search provider;

ubiquitous search method provision module for providing a ubiquitous search method performing said search utilizing said first search method and said second search method; and

ubiquitous search method response module for responding to a call to said ubiquitous search method by performing said search utilizing said first search method and said second search method.

14. The system of claim 13, where said registration module further registers a first response

format for receiving search results from said first search provider and registers a second response format for receiving search results from said second search provider; and

where ubiquitous search method response module receives a first search result in said first response format from said first search provider; receives a second search result in said second response format from said second search provider; and provides said first and said second search results.

15. The system of claim 14, where said first and said second search results are provided in a unified format.

16. The system of claim 15, where said search request detection module receives response format data, and where said first and said second search results are provided according to said response format data.

17. A system for providing a search on a database by a first search provider associated with a database compatible with provision of search functionality across at least a second search provider, comprising:

a search method provision module for providing a search method for searching said database;

a search provider registration module for providing a search provider registration method for registering said search method;

search provider registration method module for responding to a call to said search provider registration with information regarding said search method;

search method module for responding to a call to said search method by searching said database.